TOK – Star Trek – The Next Generation

“Measure of a Man”

The series star trek is a very creative idea. And it showed how humans have been attached to a robot in the future. In the series star trek there were many ways of knowing used to recognize if Data (the robot in the series) was or wasn’t property of Starfleet. They used reason, language, emotion and sense perception.

Sense perception is one of the ways of knowing or used to decide whether data was a machine or not. During the trial Riker shut Data down showing that he (Data) was a machine and he could be killed at anytime, Riker also detaches Data’s hand from his (Data) body viewing him as a machine for the reason that humans cannot do such. Riker also asks data a series of different questions and Data replies by giving him very accurate answers portraying Data as a machine because information is stored in Data’s hard drive and he does not have a brain.

Emotion is used as a way of knowing because Data has developed intimate feeling for a human called Sasha. This shows that Data is more than just an android because he has feelings which show a sense of emotion and androids do not have emotion. So this showed that Data had a part of human in him. When Data is getting ready to leave the ship and go with Dr Picard, he packs a journal given to him by the general and when he asked why he packed this he replies by saying that “the journal is very special to me because it was given to me by a good friend of mine.” This shows that Data also has memory and he is social because he has friends.

Language is also used to determine if data is an android. The question is asked “what is he?” but the answer to this question is found in the question itself because they call Data he not it, showing that Data has a gender, and things that have a gender are animals, and animals can make decisions, therefore Data can make decisions. And because of him having the ability to make decisions, it means he is not the property of Starfleet.

The fourth and final way of knowing in this series was reasoning. The Captain of the ship asks many questions to Data and the Doctor. The Captain Picard asks the Doctor one specific question which is “do you like Data?” and the doctor replies “yes” and when the doctor is asked why the doctor says because Data is one of a kind android and that he is more than just an android. And the doctor comes to the conclusion that Data is more than just an android but is like a human.

In conclusion man was of knowing were used to decide if Data was an android or not and if he was he would the property of Starfleet. But in the end Data was seen as a human like android, and not the property of Starfleet, because the ways of knowing gave enough evidence that he was not the property of Starfleet.